

## PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

## Sir:

This is in response to a Restriction Requirement received in this case dated February 21, 2006, a response to which is due March 21, 2006 with a shortened statutory period for reply. A Petition for a Five Month Extension of time and the fee therefore is submitted herewith, extending the due date until August 21, 2006. Accordingly, this Response is deemed to be timely filed.

Applicant does not believe that any additional fees are deemed to be due in connection with this Response. However, if Applicant is incorrect in this regard, you are hereby authorized to charge any such fee, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0644, and are respectfully requested to notify the undersigned of any such charge or credit.

Claims 1-26 are pending in this case. The Examiner has required Applicants to elect one of the following species of the

linkage of the claimed invention, each of which the Examiner alleges is patentably distinct from the others:

- I. Figures 3A and 3B;
- II. Figures 6A and 6B; and
- III. Figures 7A and 7B

Applicants hereby elect Species I, defined by the Examiner as including Figures 3A and 3B, which is read on by each of pending Claims 1-26. Applicants note that the Examiner has not stated why each of Groups I-III is deemed to be patentably distinct, and respectfully traverse on the basis that the Examiner's search of the present invention should be broad enough to encompass the various linkages set forth in Groups I-III.

The Examiner has further required Applicants to elect one of the following species of the vehicle of claimed invention, each of which the Examiner alleges is patentably distinct from the others:

- A. Figure 8;
- B. Figure 9;
- C. Figures 10A, 10B and 11;
- D. Figure 12; and
- E. Figure 13

Applicants hereby elect Species A, defined by the Examiner as including the vehicles in Figure 8, which is read on by each of pending Claims 1-26. Applicants note that the Examiner has not stated why each of Groups A-E is deemed to be patentably distinct, and respectfully traverse on the basis that the

Examiner's search of the invention should be broad enough to encompass the various vehicles set forth in Groups A-E.

Please direct any questions concerning this Response to Applicant's undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,
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